

ARREST STATISTICS REPORTING
ACT OF 2015

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BROOKS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, America's policymakers face an information gap that undermines our ability to make the immigration policy decisions needed to protect American lives from the threat posed by illegal aliens.

What information gap? It is crime statistics that reflect criminal conduct by illegal aliens.

The horrifying murder of 32-year-old Kate Steinle in San Francisco has, once again, put crime by illegal aliens in the national spotlight; but this issue should always be in the spotlight because it daily affects American citizens across the country, despite pro-amnesty forces' best efforts to suppress politically inconvenient truths about illegal alien crime in America.

The fact is America's crime data for illegal aliens is inadequate. While we have access to Federal sentencing data for illegal aliens, illegal aliens crime data for cities, counties, and States is just not there. For example, while illegal aliens are roughly 3.5 percent of America's population, the United States Sentencing Commission data reflects that, out of 74,911 Federal sentencing cases, illegal aliens committed 17 percent of drug trafficking, 20 percent of kidnapping/hostage taking, 12 percent of money laundering, 12 percent of murders, and a whopping 74 percent of drug possession felonies.

If this Federal data is any indicator, illegal aliens are far more likely to commit violent and dangerous crimes than the average American or lawful immigrant. The absence of State and local law enforcement data is critical because most heinous crimes—such as murder, rape, violent assaults, and the like—are prosecuted at the State level.

As of today, the Federal Government does not publicly report State and local illegal alien crime data, thus undermining our understanding of how bad the illegal alien crime problem is and what we must do to address it.

A report released this past Monday, July 20, by the Center for Immigration Studies found that, according to Census Bureau data, 2.5 million illegal aliens, at the rate of 400,000 per year, have been added to America's illegal alien problem since President Obama took office. America's policymakers need empirical data showing how many Americans are horribly victimized by the millions of illegal aliens this and other administrations have allowed into our country.

While we have daily access to the endless stream of anecdotal, gruesome news reports of yet another illegal alien taking yet another American citizen's life, we need "big picture" data to rebut the liberal left's mantra that illegal aliens are as clean, innocent, and pure as freshly fallen snow.

For example, in my district, which has Redstone Arsenal, one of America's premier military facilities, more Americans have been killed by illegal aliens than my district has lost in Afghanistan, in Iraq, to the Islamic State, to al Qaeda, and to the Taliban combined.

Is Alabama's Fifth Congressional District's experience with illegal aliens an anomaly? Or is illegal alien crime as bad in the rest of America?

Mr. Speaker, in order to make good policy decisions, America's policymakers need better data. I have introduced a bill to help. My bill, the Arrest Statistics Reporting Act, does two things.

First, it requires that arrest reports already sent to the FBI by State and local governments include the best known immigration status of the arrestee. Second, it requires the Federal Government to publish illegal alien crime data in the FBI's annual crime statistics reports.

This data will better inform the public and lawmakers about illegal alien crime and empower us to make the decisions needed to protect American lives.

Mr. Speaker, honest immigration debate requires the best crime data. My bill, the Arrest Statistics Reporting Act, will help us obtain it.

VIOLENCE IN MEXICO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month, Americans were riveted by news that infamous drug lord Joaquin Guzman, better known as El Chapo, had escaped from a maximum security prison in Mexico.

It took this spectacular movie-style breakout to return Mexico and its drug cartels to our national attention, and that is a problem.

When ruthless, barbaric criminals terrorize an innocent population halfway around the world, America notices. We rightly rise up as one to decry the horrific violence perpetrated by ISIL in Syria and Iraq, recoiling in horror at the news of rapes, beheadings, and savagery run amok; yet, when similar violence is visited upon an innocent population in our own backyard, why are we not similarly outraged?

Earlier this year, Aide Nava was beheaded by ruthless thugs not halfway around the world, but in the Mexican state of Guerrero, less than 1,000 miles from the U.S. border. Ms. Nava's death was not an isolated incident, nor was it random. She was a candidate for mayor of her town. Her husband had been mayor until last year, when he was assassinated.

A note found near her body warned of similar treatment for other politicians who did not fall in line and was signed "Los Rojos," the name of one of Guerrero's largest criminal organizations.

If violence in the state of Guerrero sounds familiar, it should. In the town

of Iguala in Guerrero, just last year, 43 students engaged in a peaceful protest were kidnapped, murdered, and cremated in a mass grave.

Those 43 are but a tiny fraction of the tens of thousands of Mexicans who have been murdered by Mexican drug cartels over the last decade, including at least four candidates and more than a dozen campaign workers during this year's midterm elections. Disturbingly, violence against women in particular has skyrocketed, and the rate at which women are murdered in Mexico is now double the global average.

Meanwhile, a cowed and corrupt leadership seems powerless to stop any of this and may even be actively abetting the violence.

We know that drug use in the United States has regrettably contributed to the conditions that have allowed this violence to spread. The money that fuels the drug cartels comes in large part from narcotics sales north of the Rio Grande.

Just as the drugs flow north, the guns flow south. I have addressed this Chamber in support of legislation countering the sale of guns through "straw purchasers," which are then sent across the border.

This mutually destructive trade of guns and drugs cannot be allowed to continue unabated. More sensible treatment of drug addiction at home and more commonsense gun laws would not only help our own country, but also reduce chaos in the neighborhood.

The U.S. has done much to assist Mexico in countering cartel violence, primarily through the Merida Initiative, a counterdrug and anticrime assistance package.

Since 2008, we have provided Mexico with over \$2.5 billion for the Merida Initiative, whose strategy focuses on disrupting criminal groups, institutionalizing the rule of law, creating a 21st century border, and building strong and resilient communities.

The reforms or money supports have been painfully slow in coming. It is still the case that only 25 percent of the crimes in Mexico are reported, fewer than 5 percent are investigated, and fewer than 2 percent ultimately move to trial and sentencing.

The problem in Mexico is not simply a lack of resources; it appears to be a lack of will. The active presence of corruption and official collusion squelches free speech, causing citizens to fear their elected officials, allowing the rule of law to fail.

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Those 43 murdered students appear to have been killed with the knowledge and participation of the local police force on orders from Iguala's mayor and his wife. It is a dramatic story, but not unusual one, a story of corruption and impunity in officialdom.

Sadly, those who tell the story, including journalists, human rights activists, and even brave victims willing to speak out, too often meet fates similar to the students of Iguala.